



**Economic and Social
Council**

GENERAL

E/ECE/1261
28 February 1992

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-seventh session
(Provisional Agenda item 4(d))

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT

(Commission decision F (46))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. This report has been prepared in response to paragraph 14 of decision F (46)
2. With respect to international legal instruments, progress was made towards the development of a coherent transport system in Europe through the revision of different agreements and conventions. Work on the revision of the instruments on Road Signs and Signals, taking into account latest developments, should be completed by the end of 1992.
3. The European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) which was opened for signature from April 1991 has been signed by 16 member Governments. In the framework of this Agreement a study has been prepared on a possible categorization of inland waterways according to their suitability for combined transport, the results of which may be incorporated into a new legal instrument.
4. The draft of a new Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers used in International Transport has also been elaborated.

GE.92-20561/7349a

5. Revision of the 1958 Agreement on the Construction of Vehicles is being considered in order to widen its scope and make it easier for non-ECE countries to become Contracting Parties.
6. Reducing the negative impacts of transport, in particular with respect to traffic safety and protection of the environment, was a major concern of the responsible ECE bodies. Special emphasis was laid on the need to reduce emissions through the reduction of specific fuel consumption and improve the control of vehicles in service. In this connection, Regulations nos. 83 and 49 annexed to the 1958 Agreement have been amended so as to harmonize the limits and testing procedures for emissions of passenger cars and heavy duty diesel-powered vehicles with those of the European Community.
7. Following the European Road Safety Week organized in October 1990, a Seminar on Road Safety will be held from 23 to 24 March 1992. The objectives of the Seminar are: to evaluate the results of the Road Safety Week, to indicate future action aimed at improving road safety in the ECE region, to assess the effectiveness of various systems and media of communication to road users and to indicate measures necessary for improving them.
8. The study on the harmonization and simplification of documentation and administrative procedures in international road transport was completed in 1991. On this basis the Committee adopted conclusions and recommendations concerning follow-up activities to be taken by its subsidiary bodies, aimed at improving the situation in this field.
9. In compliance with Committee resolution no. 237 on Increasing Dimensions of Loading Units in Combined Transport, a Seminar on the Impact of Increasing Dimensions of Loading Units on Combined Transport has been tentatively scheduled for 1 to 4 September 1992. This would allow the Inland Transport Committee to take a final decision on the subject at its session in 1993.
10. An ad hoc intersecretariat group was created with the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and the International Union of Railways (UIC) in order to study problems and propose measures for the facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport. The ad hoc group has identified a number of border stations on determined rail lines, at which it is envisaged to undertake a detailed analysis of those factors which cause delays in international rail traffic. The group also prepared a draft questionnaire to be submitted to Governments.
11. The implementation of transport infrastructure projects progressed satisfactorily. Under the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project, a TEM Cooperation Trust Fund Agreement was signed between the participating Governments and ECE under which ECE continues to be the Executing Agency for TEM for a period of five years from January 1992 and participating Governments will contribute funds to meet the costs of the project. The project countries have agreed to extend the initial corridor into a network to include also the east-west connections. The work programme includes international financing for the construction of this motorway and establishment of a data base. Within the Trans-European North-South Railway (TER) Project, the Working Party on Infrastructure Development and Technical Operations developed in 1991 a programme of work which includes the creation of a data base and network and

financing issues. The priorities of participating countries and the primary objectives and outputs of the project will be reviewed at the meeting of the Steering Committee in Budapest (Hungary) in March 1992.

12. The study of the traffic flows along the Baltic corridor was included in the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee. In respect of traffic flows along east-west corridors a study was carried out jointly by the Commission of the European Communities and the ECE secretariat to assess of transport infrastructure needs in the light of east European developments, which will be analysed with a view to identifying possible follow-up.

13. As a follow-up to the Pan-European Transport Conference (Prague (Czech and Slovak Federal Republic), 29-31 October 1991), the Inland Transport Committee requested the secretariat to participate, together with other international organizations, in the elaboration of an all-European transport concept and to continue to participate and organize intersecretariat EEC, ECMT, ECE high level meetings in order to coordinate work and avoid duplication. The Committee introduced into its programme of work:

- reconsideration of ECE infrastructure agreements and projects in order to take into account inter alia:

- (i) stricter environmental, energy and safety requirements;
- (ii) new east-west flows;
- (iii) the infrastructure needs of central and east European countries establishing priorities and considering financing;
- (iv) ECE environmental conventions

- implementation of the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic and Road Signs and Signals and of the European Agreements supplementing them, and consideration of those legal instruments with a view to raising road safety standards;

- consideration of the TEM and TER projects with a view to a possible east-west extension, development of combined transport and financing

- consideration of transport lines giving access to peripheral regions.

14. The current priority areas of work of the Inland Transport Committee (Construction of Vehicles, Road Safety and Transport of Dangerous Goods) have been complemented with two new areas, namely: Infrastructures and Combined Transport.

15. The following publications were issued or are in preparation:

- Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Seventh edition, 1991);

- Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP, 1991);

- A revision of European Provisions Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterway (ADN);

- "Guide to the compilation of transport statistics in market economies";
- The results of an all-European road traffic census based on ECE recommendations carried out in 1990 on the European E road network.

16. The hardware enabling the introduction of electronic data interchange (EDI) in the field of development and administration of Regulations applicable to Construction of Vehicles and to the Transport of Dangerous Goods has been acquired through contributions of Governments and progress is being made in the implementation of the software and conversion of documents into compatible formats.

17. The revision of the classification of European inland waterways has been virtually completed and a resolution to this effect is expected to be adopted by the end of 1992. A study on the establishment of a network of main European inland waterways of international importance has been started, aiming at the elaboration of a draft European Agreement (AGN).

18. With respect to assistance for countries in transition, the following workshops were held in countries of central and eastern Europe on transition issues in the field of inland transport:

- Market Adaptation of the Inland Navigation Industry in Eastern and Central Europe and its Integration into an All-European Transport System (Budapest (Hungary), 9-10 September 1991);
- Problems of Transition from Centrally-Planned to a Market Economy in the Field of Road Transport (Sinaia (Romania), 16-19 September 1991);
- Nature of the Relation between the State and the Railways (Budapest (Hungary), 15-16 October 1991);
- A series of workshops on combined transport issues took place in Prague (Czech and Slovak Federal Republic) on 13-14 June 1991, in Budapest (Hungary) from 16-19 September 1991 and in Warsaw (Poland) on 21-22 November 1991.